



THE FLASH City of Talent

An update from City Administration, Planning, Public Works and Police Departments

The Flash, which occupies the following two pages, is a publication of the City of Talent and is editorially separate from the rest of the Talent News and Review. All content and editorial choices contained in the rest of the paper are the sole responsibility of the TNR and are not in any way associated with the City of Talent. -JG



New Faces at City Hall

Hello Talent,

My name is Chris Peters and I am pleased to let you know that I have joined the staff at City Hall. I graduated from Cal Poly San Luis Obispo with a degree in Finance and have worked in the accounting field ever since. My husband, Jason, and I have been married for 14 years. We have two daughters, Katie (11 yrs), and Jenna (8 yrs). In my free time I like to exercise, garden, and I am learning to play the guitar. Thank you for the opportunity to work in such a wonderful city and I look forward to meeting you.

-Chris Peters

GOOD TIME TO GET INVOLVED

Each year in January citizens are appointed to various Commissions and Committees. The City is always looking for new names to add to the list of active participants. Currently there is an opening on the Planning Commission and three on the Budget Committee. The Planning Commission meets regularly on the 4th Thursdays of the month. The Budget Committee has a rather short life with work done primarily in April and May of each year. State law requires that the City have a balance of elected and appointed representatives to this very important committee. There are also openings on the Planning Advisory board. If you are interested in serving you can apply by obtaining a volunteer application from the City's website or stopping by City Hall.

Managing Pets – Important for Good Neighbor Relations

As the City becomes more urban and less rural it becomes more important that laws and rules established by the City Council are followed, particularly where they affect the rights and responsibilities of others. Recently citizens have complained about dog owners who when walking their dogs make no attempt to clean up after them. The City Ordinance #749 states that owners are not permitted to allow their dogs to run at large. This means that when walking a dog it must be on a leash.

In addition, dog owners are also required to clean up after their animals and not allow animal waste to be deposited on public or private property other than your own. The City has provided an installation that provides bags for clean up and a place to dispose of animal waste. Where there are these installations, please use them or, please bring a plastic bag from home when you start out on the walk. Everyone is asked to please respect the rights of your neighbors.

SUCCESSFUL HOLIDAY PROGRAMS



Thank you all for your support of the City sponsored holiday programs. On December 2nd the Community Center was filled with residents who came to share in the tree lighting ceremony to kickoff the Lights for Life fund-raising campaign, in Talent, for the Ashland Hospital Foundation, also the community was treated to musical entertainment, food, and fellowship. Thanks to the Talent Middle School Choir lead by Music Director Maryann Robinson the building was filled with holiday song. This year brought extended storytelling by Tom Doty and children's stories by the Friends of the Library. It is the Holiday Celebration for the community that will definitely become an annual celebration according to former Mayor Marian Telerski who helped organize the event with help from Bill Cecil, Ron Ridgway, Sharon Anderson and the Talent Garden Club. Thanks also to all those that donated so many wonderful cookies.

With the help of staff from all City Departments, firemen from Fire District #5, and the generous contributions from many City residents, the City was able to help 6 Talent families totaling 30 people to have a memorable Christmas this year. Each year this program is successful due to all of the help of so many giving individuals. Not only did each family member receive several individual gifts but food for holiday meals was contributed as well. The firemen in one of their District Fire trucks made the deliveries with Santa along for the ride.

Pedestrian/Bicyclist Safety

We'd like to remind motorists while driving to be alert to pedestrians walking about our streets wearing dark, non-reflective clothing, which makes it very hard to see them during hours of darkness. Bicyclists have been observed without required lighting and reflective equipment/clothing as well. As we are currently in the darkest months of the year, this is a big safety

problem. Please make sure that you and your family members are visible by wearing light-colored and/or reflective clothing when walking about, and that bicyclists have required lighting front and rear, and also wear reflective clothing when biking. These simple steps can prevent tragedy from occurring.

For more information on pedestrian safety, check out this website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/pedestrian.shtml>

For more information on bicyclist safety, check out this website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/TS/bicyclist-safety.shtml>

COP TALK

by Chief Mike Moran



Talent PD has received a report of an old ruse by criminals that has been recently used elsewhere in the county too. A suspect comes to the door with some sort of emergency and asks to use the phone. When allowed inside a phony call to someone while the suspect looks around for things to grab. The thief often will ask to use the bathroom and look for prescription drugs in the medicine cabinet. After awhile the person leaves to wait for their ride or help outside. You will then notice things missing later.

If someone comes to your door asking for help DO NOT allow him or her inside. Offer to make the call for them. If they run off call the police.

Remember to report all suspicious activity to the police immediately. The number for serious in-progress emergencies is 911. For any other police response the number to call is our dispatch center 776-7206.

January has many hours of darkness and that affords criminals more opportunity for burglaries. However, occasionally daylight break-ins occur. Here are some tips on reducing the chance you will be a victim of a home break-in.

Burglars generally are not the highly intelligent sneak thieves often portrayed in movies. They use basic and often crude methods of gaining entry. Burglars interviewed in jail have said their favorite entry point is very basic—a door.

A burglar may enter a home through a door using several techniques:

- Entering via an unlocked door
- Doors can be kicked in.
- Door locks can be picked.
- Door locks can be pried, drilled or forced open.
- Glass panes near doors can be broken to gain entry
- Obtain a copy of the house key from an acquaintance.

Remember, the intruder will select the door that looks easiest to break into and that offers the least chance of being seen. Doors going into the garage and going from an attached ga-

JANUARY, 2009
Volume 11/Issue 1
Official
Newsletter of the City of
Talent
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rage into the house many times offer an intruder the opportunity to hide from view while they are breaking in. Consider extra security for these doors.

Here are some tips to help secure doors from intruders:

Install locks with deadbolts.

Use key control. Key control is simply controlling who has copies of keys to your home. Many door keys can be copied at a local hardware or retail store. However, many lock manufacturers now sell locks using keys that cannot be copied except by certain locksmiths or only by the manufacturer themselves.

If you like to hide a key outside somewhere remember that burglars look under doormats and under things near the door too. Make it hard for them and they'll move along to an easier target.

Once again, remember to report all suspicious activity to the police immediately. The number for serious in-progress emergencies is 911. For any other police response the number to call is our dispatch center 776-7206.

-Chief Moran

URBAN RENEWAL NEWS

North Talent Avenue Project Begins

The Agency recently was awarded a \$354,620 grant from the Oregon Department of Transportation's Bike/Pedestrian Program. The award will pay for approximately 60% of the estimated cost of construction, which will add sidewalks and bike lanes to the northern unfinished section of Talent Avenue. Beginning near Colver Road and ending near La Pree Street, the project will add pockets of on-street parking and landscaping and repair sections of roadway. Full road reconstruction is not necessary, as sewer, storm and water lines are either new or of adequate capacity. The project will put as many overhead utility wires as possible underground, but main transmission poles will remain for technical reasons. The Agency recently selected HBH Consulting Engineers, Medford office, to design the project. Currently, the anticipated schedule is to go to bid this spring and break ground in early July 2009.

Property owners on North Talent Avenue will soon be contacted by mail about the project and a public meeting will be scheduled to receive input on the preliminary design. In addition, two citizens from North Talent Avenue are needed to serve on the street design committee. Please contact Marla Cates, Executive Director, 535-6170 or ura.talent@charterinternet.com to apply or for more information.

PUBLIC MEETING GIBSON STREET RECONSTRUCTION

The City of Talent Engineering Department will be holding an open house to go over options for the reconstruction of Gibson Street from Colver Road to Lapree Street on January 15th, 2009 at the Talent Community Center from 3:00pm - 5:00pm. If any residents are interested in the improvements and want to visit with us to talk about the project please come by. If residents are not able to come by, but want to give comments please call the City of Talent Engineering Department at 535-5531.

NEW BACKBOARD AT TENNIS COURTS



Public Works employees installed a section of backboard in the Tennis courts at Chuck Roberts Park. Gary Leason generously donated the materials for this section. Public Works then assembled, painted and hung the board.

Since this section has been put up, many of you have called to inquire as to the continuation of the backboard along the entire length of the court. We do hope to be able to make this happen.

If you are interested in donating materials, please contact Lester Naught, Superintendent at Public Works 535-3828.

Preventing Frozen Water Pipes

The City of Talent Water Department has received a number of calls from citizens asking for advice to avoid water pipe bursts during these cold winter months.

Here are a few easy tips to help you avoid frozen pipelines this winter:

1. Keep the water flowing.

This can easily be done by leaving a trickle of water running from the faucet located in the highest point in the house.

2. Heat all rooms in your house that have plumbing fixtures. Pipes in unheated rooms run the risk of freezing and could cause extensive damage.

If your sinks are on an outside wall you can leave the cabinet doors open. This allows the heat from the room to enter.

3. Keep your meter box lids closed during the winter to keep cold air from freezing the meter.

Do not remove snow from meter box lids. It actually helps insulate the meter.

If your water pipe does happen to freeze, do not thaw it with an open flame. That could start a fire. You should thaw any pipes with a hair dryer, the exhaust from a vacuum cleaner, heat lamps, or electric heaters.

BUILDING INSPECTORS HOURS CHANGE

Due to Jackson County Building and Planning Department cut backs, the County offices will not be open on Fridays. Effective January 9th through the end of June and then on a to be determined basis, County inspectors will not work on Fridays. The City contracts with Jackson County for all building, mechanical, plumbing and electrical inspections, therefore any inspection requests left on the City inspection line on Thursdays could likely not be conducted until the following Monday. If you have questions, please call our Planning department at 535-7401 or Jackson County Building Department at 774-6900.

Talent Water System Receives Award

The Oregon Department of Human Resources Drinking Water Program recently conducted a review of the Talent water system and has issued an "Outstanding Performance" award to the City.

According to Environmental Health Specialist Daniel Hough, "(Talent's) water system facilities were found to be well operated and maintained by knowledgeable and competent staff."

The Outstanding Performance award demonstrates that Talent has a good water system that is being maintained and managed in a professional and safe manner.

COMMUNITY CENTER USE

For the second year expanded rentals in the Community Center have been allowed by the City Council for the expanded use by the public.

While it continues to be used for all government meetings and Food & Friends it has been made available to the public at open times for private parties.

There are some regulations governing the use but a number of private parties have been held successfully. The City has acquired a tuned, useable piano through a generous contribution coordinated by Andrew Brock, the choir instructor at Talent Elementary. Arrangements can be made at City Hall if you are interested in making use of the Community Center for a group or private party.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR CITY CENNTENNIAL CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

The committee has begun meeting and planning for many special events in Talent. It is expected that there will be special events throughout the year 2009 and 2010, with a big celebration closer to the City's 100th birthday on November 2, 2010. Anyone interested in getting involved and who has an interest in contributing to the planning for a great celebration, contact City Hall at 535-1566 to find out more and to receive meeting dates and times. Please feel free to email Cheryl@cityoftalent.org

"PFP"-Pennies For Parks- Cents that Add Up

Long-time Talent residents know that they can help support City parks by contributing to the "Pennies For Parks" fund. This is a way of contributing your spare change to help support the maintenance of City Parks. All you need to do is round up your payment to the City (whether it be a water bill, building permit, or - yes - even a traffic ticket) to the next even dollar and tell us that you want the spare change to go to Pennies for Parks. Your check-book benefits by not having those pesky pennies to subtract and the City Parks benefit from your generosity.